

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

Governor's May Budget Revisions Released; Larger Cuts in Store if November Tax Measure Fails



Closing a larger-than-expected deficit will take even deeper cuts in state spending, as proposed by Governor Jerry Brown in his “May Revise” of the 2012-2013 State Budget. Released on Monday, May 14, the new proposal responds to disappointing first quarter tax returns by cutting cut \$8.3 billion from government spending, reflecting \$4.1 billion in cuts beyond the January budget proposal. Those cuts will come from state employee compensation, welfare, health care, higher education, courts, and other critical government programs. The proposal also relies on passage of the Governor’s tax initiative on the November ballot, which would temporarily raise \$8.5 billion in taxes from upper income taxpayers and a 1/4-cent increase in sales tax. If the tax initiative does not pass in November, \$6 billion in additional cuts will go into effect on January 1, 2013.

In a statement released on Monday, Governor Brown commented: “This budget reflects the fact that the nation’s economic recovery is proceeding more slowly than anticipated. Lower tax revenues, coupled with federal government obstructions that blocked billions in necessary cuts, have created a deeper budget hole. More painful reductions will be necessary as a result, but education and public safety must be protected.”

As summarized by the California Budget Project, the new proposal cuts \$1.2 billion from the Medi-Cal program, \$879.9 million from the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) Program, and makes deep cuts to IHSS, child care, the courts, and the Cal Grant college financial aid program.

Reactions to the proposal came swiftly from advocates for seniors and persons with disabilities across the state, including Aging Services of California, Disability Rights California, California Hospital Association and United Domestic Workers (representing In-Home-Supportive-Service providers). Links to a number of organizations commenting on the cuts have been compiled and posted on Facebook by the California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports at <http://www.facebook.com/ccltss.org>.

Excerpted from Governor Brown’s May 14, 2012 press release (www.gov.ca.gov/home.php), California Disability Community Action Network Newsletter #089-2012 – MAY 14, 2012 and the California Budget Project May 16, 2012 report “Governor Releases May Revision: Tax Collections Down and Deeper Cuts Proposed, Highlighting Need for a Balanced Approach With Significant Additional Revenues”

AGE WATCH is an occasional publication of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) intended to inform, educate, and advocate. The CCoA is an independent state agency established in 1973 to serve as the principal state advocate on behalf of older Californians. The CCoA office is located at 1300 National Drive, Suite 173, Sacramento, CA 95834. (916) 419-7591

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Legislative Budget Hearings Scheduled

With Monday's release of the revised State Budget, the final round of legislative budget subcommittee hearings will begin in earnest this and next week.

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services met Thursday, May 17, to review the effects of the revised proposals on the Department of Developmental Services budget. A similar hearing of the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services is set for May 22 at 1:30 p.m. The schedule of Health and Human Service budget hearings at the Capitol is as follows:

- May 21 (Mon) 10:00 AM – Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health & Human Services. Topic: Medi-Cal and Mental Health
- May 22 (Tue) 01:30 PM – Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health & Human Services. Topic: Adult Day Health Care (now Community Based Adult Services)
- May 22 (Tue) 1:30 PM – Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health & Human Services. Developmental Services, IHSS, other Human Services programs
- May 24 (Thu) 09:00 AM – Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services. Topic: possibly CalWORKS and other programs human services programs
- May 23 (Wed) 1:30 PM – Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health & Human Services. Topic: Medi-Cal (and possibly Mental Health)
- May 24 (Thu) 09:00 AM – Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services. Topic: possibly IHSS and other programs human services programs

Brief public comments will be taken at all the hearings on the Governor's new proposals – or proposals that have not been previously heard in detail. For details on the hearing schedule or to listen or watch online, visit <http://assembly.ca.gov> or <http://senate.ca.gov>.

Excerpted from CDCAN Report #092-2012, 5/16/2012.

Upcoming Events

- June 7-8, California Commission on Aging meeting, Sacramento Hyatt. www.ccoa.ca.gov for agendas.
- June 7, 2012 -- Informational briefing: *Rural California: Examining the Transition to Managed Care* will address issues surrounding California's implementation of Medi-Cal managed care in the state's 28 rural counties. From 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Room 112 at the State Capitol.